

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08752 021008Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1759

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: HSU SHIH-YU, WEI KUO-CHING APPEAR TOGETHER FOR ARMY DAY

1. A HIGHLIGHT OF ARMY DAY IN CANTON WAS THE APPEARANCE TOGETHER THERE OF HSU SHIH-YU AND WEI KUO-CHING, TWO POLITBURO FIGURES WHOSE CAREERS, EXPERIENCES, AND PRESENT POSTS IN THE SOUTH OF CHINA COULD MAKE THEM AN IMPORTANT TEAM TO WATCH. HSU, WHO APPEARS TO HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN A HAND IN KWANGTUNG'S CONDUCT OF THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT, LED THE TURNOUT AS COMMANDER OF THE CANTON REGION. WEI, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED IN JANUARY AS FIRST POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE REGION, APPEARED IN SECOND PLACE WITH THAT TITLE. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN CANTON FOR WEI, WHO IS CHIEF AND LONG-TIME STRONGMAN OF NEIGHBORING KWANGSI PROVINCE.

2. HSU AND WEI SERVED TOGETHER IN THE THIRD FIELD ARMY, AND
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PAGE 02 HONG K 08752 021008Z

BOTH STOOD SUCCESSFULLY FOR ORDER IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS

WHEN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION GOT OUT OF HAND. NEITHER HAS SHOWN GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CURRENT MOVEMENT. HSU HAS RECEIVED SOME CRITICISM AND POSSIBLY A ROCKET AT THE OUTSET FROM CHIANG CHING, BUT ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS HE HAS TAKEN A HAND IN CALMING THINGS DOWN IN KWANGTUNG SINCE MID-YEAR. JUDGING FROM KWANGSI RADIO, WEI AHS FROM THE OUTSET INSISTED ON KEEPING THE MOVEMENT'S ATTACK NARROWLY FOCUSED ON THE LIN PIAO CLIQUE AND WITHIN ORDERLY BOUNDS.

3. KWANGTUNG'S REHABILITATED VETERAN CIVILIAN CHIEF, CHAO TZU-YANG, WAS IN THIRD PLACE FOR THE OCCASION. CHAO'S APPARENTLY SKILLFUL RECONSOLIDATION OF HIS AUTHORITY IN KWANGTUNG WAS COMMENTED UPON IN HONG KONG 8519 AND HONG KONG'S A-198. IN FOURTH PLACE WAS KWANGTUNG LEADER KUNG SHIH-CHUAN WHO HAS BEEN MUCH ATTACKED IN POSTERS BUT OBVIOUSLY SURVIVES, DUE PERHAPS TO CHAO'S REPORTED DEFENSE OF HIM. THE MOST NOTABLE ABSENCE WAS THAT OF JEN SSU-CHUNG, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN HEAVILY ATTACKED. HE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN SACKED AT THIS POINT.

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